

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 TAR-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-02 H-02 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 120658Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5261

INFO AMCONXUL BRISBANE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1571

SYDNEY ALSO PASS TRADE CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS:

TARIFF QUOTAS ON "WHITE GOODS" ANNOUNCED

REF: (A) CANBERRA 8017 NOTAL

(B) STATE 055008 NOTAL

1. PRESS MARCH 12 REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPECIAL MINISTER
OF STATE OF IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS ON REFRIGERATORS, CLOTHES
DRYERS AND WASHING MACHINES WITH EFFECT FROM MARCH 1. DETAILS
OF MEASURE UNCLEAR IN PRESS REPORTING. TEXT OF OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND NOT AVAILABLE MARCH 12
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BECAUSE OF LOCAL HOLIDAY AND CLOSURE ALL AUSTRALIAN GOVERN-

MENT OFFICES.

2. QUOTAS FOR TWELVE MONTHS STARTING MARCH 1, WHICH WILL APPARENTLY BE ASSIGNED INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS ON BASIS OF THEIR PERFORMANCE IN TWO YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 1974, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) REFRIGERATORS UP TO 454 LITERS CAPACITY - 20,000
- (B) REFRIGERATORS ABOVE 454 LITERS CAPACITY - 2,500
- (C) CLOTHES DRYERS - 70,000
- (D) WASHING MACHINES -20,000.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTING PARTICULARLY UNCLEAR ON THIS POINT, QUOTAS APPEAR TO BE TARRIF QUOTAS, WITH ADDITIONAL ABOVE QUOTA TARIFFS AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) SMALLER REFRIGERATORS - 22.5 PCT.
- (B) LARGER REFRIGERATORS -17.5 PCT.
- (C) CLOTHES DRYERS - 20 PCT.
- (D) WASHING MACHINES - 15 PCT.

4. NEW RATES WILL APPLY TO BOTH UNASSEMBLED AND ASSEMBLED PRODUCTS.

5. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTS OF THESE ITEMS FROM U.S. IN PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS SINCE U.S. DOLLAR DEVALUED AND AUSTRALIANS ADOPTED EARLIER PROGRAM OF IMPORT STIMULATION. AMONG LEADING IMPORTERS HAVE BEEN U.S. MCNS WITH MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA. THEY HAVE FOUND IT PROFITABLE IN THIS PERIOD, AS LEAST IN PART, TO SOURCE FROM PARENT COMPANIES IN U.S. RATHER THAN FROM HIGH COST LOCAL PLANTS. GOA ALSO FACES A SPECIAL PROBLEM, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS UNRESOLVED AT TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT, IN APPLYING THESE MEASURES TO IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND. NEW ZEALAND NOW SUPPLIES A HIGH PROPORTION OF AUSTRALIA'S IMPORTS OF THESE ITEMS UNDER THE NEW ZEALAND-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE ARRANGEMENT.

6. EMBASSY WILL OBTAIN TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 13 AND MAKE ADDITIONAL REPORT.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORT CONTROLS, TARIFFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER01571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750086-0305
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750360/aaaacbhh.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 8017
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: TARIFF QUOTAS ON "WHITE GOODS" ANNOUNCED
TAGS: ETRD, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006